Lack of Roads, Bridges and National Highways in Orissa

2413. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the deficiencies in Orissa in the matter of roads, bridges and National Highways;

(b) if so, the steps taken to pay more attention to the backward States like Orissa in the above direction; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) The Central Government is primarily resoponsible for development and maintenance of National Highways including those in Orissa, and deficiencies removal is a continuous process through Five Year and Annual Plans. National Highways are generally maintained in traffic worthy condition within available funds. At present, 137 works of improvement amounting Rs. 117 crores and one work of four laning from Km 0 to 27 on NH-5 costing Rs. 218 crores under external aid are in progress in the State of Orissa.

Development of Postal and Telecom Services in North Eastern States

2414. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of specific development in Assam Postal and Telecom circles respectively during 1994-95 and so far in the current year;

(b) the specific plans for further expanding postal and telecom network in Assam in the near future;

(c) the details of types of telephone exchanges in important towns of North Eastern States, their installed capacity, working connections and current waiting list; exchange-wise and category-wise alongwith the likely dates of clearance of waiting lists;

(d) the names of subscribers to whom telephone connections were allotted in Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Dimapur and Guwahati on out-of-turn basis during the last five years; and

(e) whether Government propose to upgrade the Dibrugarh Head Post Office into a GPO, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) **Postal Services:** Four departmental sub post offices have been opened during 1994-95 and all village having population of 500 and more have been provided with letter boxes. One post office, namely Assam Sachivalaya post office has been modernised, Rajdhani mail channel between the State Capital and Delhi was introduced for expediting mail. Besides, twenty multi-purpose counter machines have been installed.

(b) **Postal Services:** Four departmental sub post offices and five extra departmental branch post offices are proposed to be opened subject to availability of resources. Four post offices have been identified for modernisation.

(a) to (d) **Telecome Services:** Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) No, Sir. Dibrugarh Head Post Office does not qualify to be a General Post Office. Only the main head post office at the headquarters of a Postal Circle is desingated-General Post Office.